

To: All WMass Media  
From: Pioneer Valley Advocates for Commuter Rail  
Contact information: Jen Cosgrove, 413-636-6707  
Date: March 2, 2009  
RE: PVACR at March 4 Metropolitan Planning Organization and Public Hearing

(Photo/Audio/Video opportunities)

On Wednesday, March 4, 2009 Pioneer Valley Advocates for Commuter Rail will be pressuring government officials directly to support commuter rail in our area. There are two possible lines for funding: Springfield to White River Junction, Vermont, and New Haven-Springfield.

#### 1. MPO Meeting

Representatives from the Metropolitan Planning Organization are meeting at 2:00-3:30. They will confirm the first round of federally-funded transportation stimulus projects.

The meeting will occur in the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's main office, located on the third floor of the J. Edward Christian Municipal Office Building at 26 Central Street in West Springfield (Phone: 413-781-6045).

Springfield-North: The MPO is considering whether to ask for \$25 million in stimulus funding for the Conn River Line from Springfield to VT. PVACR members support the Conn River Line.

Springfield-South: Connecticut officials must request stimulus funds for the 11 miles from Springfield to CT and the rest of the Springfield to New Haven line. PVACR members are encouraging James Redeker, head of CONN DOT's rail operations, to ask for stimulus funding for the Springfield-New Haven line.

#### 2. Transportation Hearing

In a separate meeting, at 4:00 at STCC, PVACR members will speak in favor of commuter rail lines. The group is excited that the Governor's proposal dedicates dollars to projects in Western Massachusetts. PVACR has been heartened by Lt. Governor Murray's consistent support for commuter rail projects as revitalization efforts for Western Massachusetts cities and towns.

PVACR coordinators Nancy Considine and Jen Cosgrove will have signs and petitions to rally support at both of these two afternoon meetings.

All residents interested in growing the economy and improving the environment are encouraged to speak up for commuter rail at these key meetings. Those who cannot attend may contact a member of the MPO by emailing: [info@pvpc.org](mailto:info@pvpc.org) or Transportation Chairman Joseph F. Wagner of Chicopee Rep. [JosephWagner@hou.state.ma.us](mailto:JosephWagner@hou.state.ma.us) or 413-

592-7857 and fellow Western Massachusetts Transportation Committee member Rep. Rosemary Sandlin Rep.RosemarySandlin@hou.state.ma.us or 413-786-7600.

For more information, see [www.SpringfieldRail.org](http://www.SpringfieldRail.org) PVACR, P.O. Box 90845, Springfield MA 01139.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has the following information on the MPO:

The MPO consists of eight members including: The Chairperson of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC); the Chairperson of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA); the Secretary of the Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) and the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD) and four local representatives. These four representatives must each be an Elected Official from a given community. The four seats have been divided as follows:

#### Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Local Representation Breakdown

Type of position

Towns represented

One Mayor

Chicopee, Holyoke, and Springfield

One Mayor or Selectman

Agawam, Amherst, Easthampton, Northampton, Westfield and West Springfield

One Selectman

Belchertown, East Longmeadow, Granby, Hadley, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Palmer, South Hadley, Southampton, Southwick, Ware and Wilbraham

One Selectman

Blandford, Brimfield, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Granville, Hampden, Hatfield, Holland, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Monson, Pelham, Plainfield, Russell, Tolland, Wales, Westhampton, Williamsburg and Worthington

In addition to the member for each of the groups of municipalities listed above, there are four alternates (one from each group) to serve on the MPO in the event that the member cannot be present. The alternate must also be an Elected Official.

#### Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Members

Name

Position

James A. Aloisi, Jr.

Secretary of the Executive Office of Transportation

Luisa Paiewonsky  
Commissioner of the Massachusetts Highway Department

Henry Barton  
Chairman of the Pioneer Valley Executive Committee

Mary MacInnes  
PVRTA Administrator

Mayor Michael Sullivan  
Mayor of Holyoke

Mayor Michael Bissonnette  
Mayor of Chicopee

Mayor Mary Clare Higgins  
Mayor of Northampton

Mayor Edward Gibson  
Mayor of West Springfield

James Barry  
Belchertown Board of Selectmen

Scott Short  
Granville Board of Selectmen

Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Alternate Members

Name  
Position

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno  
Mayor of Springfield

Mayor Susan R. Dawson  
Mayor of Agawam

Gerald Divine  
Hadley Board of Selectmen

James Driscoll  
East Longmeadow Board of Selectmen

###